Hike in domestic air fares

*120. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to increase domestic air fare;

(b) if so, what are the basic reasons for increasing the fares and whether any criteria is being followed and whether any criteria has been followed during the last one year stating the percentage of hike in air fare; and

(c) what is the accmulated loss of the Indian Airlines till date any whether any concrete measure is being taken by Government to make good the losses of IA despite hike in passengers air fare?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) At present Indian Airlines has no proposal to increase its domestic Rupee Fare. However, Indian Airlines proposes to refix its Dollar Fare at 15 per cent above the Rupee Fare (including Passenger Fee and Inland Air Travel Tax) for each sector. The average increase in the Dollar Fare would be around 6 per cent. Private operators are free to fix their fares.

(b) During the last one year, Indian Airlines increased domestic Rupee Fare once, with effect from 25th July, 1994 to partially offset the all-round increase in the cost of operations. This increase ranged between 10 per cent to 20 per cent.

(c) The accumulated losses of Indian Airlines upto 31st January, 1995 were about Rs. 616.34 crores. Various measures have been taken to make good the losses of Indian Airlines and improve its performance which includes:

(i) adoption of economy measures.

(ii) better utilisation of fleet.

(iii) incentive for boosting productivity.

Revival of air services to and from Ratnagiri

990. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the Rapid Economic and Industrial Development of Ratnagiri district, the Government of Maharashtra has been pressing upon Government to revive air services to and from Ratnagiri and to upgrade the airstrip and the Landing facilities to Boeing type aircraft;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plans and its estimated cost; and

(c) what decision has since been taken on the State's request, and by when the upgradation project is likely to be taken up for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The airstrip of Ratnagiri belongs to the Government of Maharashtra. The State Government has expanded the runway from 3600 ft. to 4000 ft. This airstrip is suitable for operations of AVRO-748 type of aircraft. National Airports Authority has no plan to upgrade this airstrip.

Amount spent on labour contractors Bill

991. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the amount sent on Labour Contractors Bill, it any in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi (Unit-ITDC), for the period from January 1993 to January 1995, month-wise full details about the job given on contract to each Contractor